

Office of Engineering and Construction

To: County Executives and Mayors

From: David Rosenblatt, Administrator
Office of Engineering & Construction

Date: April 19, 2005

Re: State Loan Program for Lake Dredging and Restoration Projects
and Stream Cleaning and De-snagging Projects

The “Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003” has provided \$15,000,000 for low interest loans to finance lake dredging and restoration and stream cleaning and de-snagging projects. As per the Act, the term of the loans shall not exceed twenty years and the interest shall not exceed two percent. The Department of Environmental Protection (The Department) is now preparing to distribute these funds in the form of loans to owners of lakes or streams or to private lake associations, with local government units as co-applicants, as defined by the statute. To facilitate this effort, we invite you to submit Lake Dredging and Restoration Project Loan applications and Stream Cleaning and De-snagging Project Loan applications for such projects you are planning to undertake within your municipality or county.

A lake dredging and restoration project as defined by the Bond Act of 2003 means the removal of sand, silt, mud, sediment, rocks, stumps, vegetation, algae blooms, or other materials from lakes, or the abatement or control of pollution of lakes caused by stormwater runoff, soil erosion, or other types of nonpoint source or point source pollution, to improve, for the purposes of flood control, the use or function of any lake, natural area, fishing, boating, or swimming area or facility, dam, or flood control facility or structure associated with the lake.

Stream cleaning or de-snagging project as defined by the Bond Act of 2003 means the removal of accumulated sediments, debris, garbage, or vegetation from a stream with a natural stream bed, or the removal of any accumulated material from a stream previously channelized with concrete or similar artificial material, to improve, for the purposes of flood control, the use or function of any stream.

Please forward all pertinent information for each project, including plans and reports, as well as any related questions to:

David Rosenblatt, Administrator
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Engineering & Construction
P.O. Box 419
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0419
(609) 292-9236

The Department will administer the loans in accordance with NJAC 7:24A1-1 et seq. The Department will disburse funds to the applicant upon completion of the entire project to the satisfaction of the Department, or on an interim basis. If interim disbursements are made, payments will be equal to the amount corresponding to the percentage of the total project completed. No disbursement shall be made until the Department receives the necessary information to document project cost. Funding of lake dredging and restoration projects and stream cleaning and de-snagging projects shall be conditioned upon the appropriation by the legislature of funds from the bond act and on the attainment of all applicable permits and approvals.

As the attached application form indicates, the Department will establish a priority listing of projects. The criteria include the project's association with a Department sanctioned flood control plan, stormwater management plan, watershed management plan and total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plan. Lake and stream use is also included in the criteria for prioritization.

Please advise your appropriate planning and engineering offices of this opportunity and submit applications by June 30, 2005. If you are aware of lake owners or lake associations that may have an interest in this loan program, please advise them also. Your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter of mutual concern will allow the Department to proceed with this distribution of available funds.

Attachment